

# **PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**February 10, 2006**

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## NOTES

1. Called to order at 8:35 am by Doug Goad.
2. Opportunity for Members of Public to Speak on Any Items Not on Today's Agenda - None
3. Committee Member Comments
  - Mike McCoy – I would like to see if we could have an update every so often on the areas in the back country that County Parks has control of and who has control of the other areas.
  - Paul Davis – I received an email about a trail enthusiasts program and availability for volunteers. I think that it would be nice to have something where people could hike near the coast and learn more about the area.
  - Doug Goad – I was trying to figure out what the big issue is with the equestrian groups in the Tijuana River Valley, is it because we are closing some of their trails and they don't want us down there and are we closing the trails to preserve the land and wildlife?
    - ♦ Yes, some equestrians do not want to be told where they can and can't ride. However, we are using a Coastal Conservancy grant and the focus is to provide a trail system that has better connections and to preserve habitat.
  - Mike McCoy – I have a question on about the Otay Watershed Management Committee and how things are going.
    - ♦ The next meeting will be on March 10, 2006 at the County Administration Center Room 302/303.
4. Approval of December 9, 2005 Minutes  
MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 9, 2005 MINUTES – Postponed to March, No Quorum
5. Distribution of January 13, 2006 Notes
6. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Renée Bahl/Jason Hemmens
  - The State of the County was on Tuesday, February 6, 2006 and one of the items in Chairman Horn's speech was his support to acquire land in San Luis Rey, support of the Miracle Field and the youth and critical hours program.
  - We have had a lot of changes in staff lately, Barbara Simmons and Melake Ghebrehiwet will be retiring in the next month, Vince Nicoletti has taken a position as a staff officer in our group office and Chandra Wallar has been named as the replacement for Bob Copper, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.
  - We are planning to have the April meeting at Quail Botanical Gardens, we will be giving more information next month but it will start at 9:00 am and be a short meeting, with the focus on a tour of the facility.
  - The Childhood Obesity Action Plan is a big push for the County and Parks and Recreation is tied into almost every aspect of this plan. We are going to have another "Its How We Live" Healthy Lifestyle Event on Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the Fallbrook Community Center and are starting planning for an event in Lakeside.

- We unveiled our Online Registration Program, so now you can register for classes the same way that we have camping reservations.
- We facilitated a two day special on the Mexican American War, which will be aired on the History Channel sometime in September 2006.
- South Lane Park in Crest (is approximately 10-acres) has had an arborist visit the facility and we are going to remove approximately 90% of the trees because they are dead, dying or diseased.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- PLDO and CSA Fund Balance Reports – Eric Wong
  - ◆ We are still projecting a negative fund balance for CSA 26. We are working with the CSA and the local advisory groups to try and find a solution.
  - ◆ Most of the other CSA area budgets are looking good at this time, with a few areas like San Dieguito with extremely good budget.
    - Marilyn Wilkinson – Is CSA 26 a flat fee amount?
  - ◆ Yes, when this CSA was established back in the 70's they set it up as a flat fee CSA.
  - ◆ If you look at the PLDO balances there are a lot of areas with very low amounts, which really stymies any future projects in the area.
  - ◆ We met with Bob Copper to talk about re-starting the process to update the PLDO Fees and he was supportive of it, so we are going to start the process again.
- San Elijo Visitor's Center Concept Plan – Charley Marchesano
  - ◆ At the last meeting we talked about the projects that are going to be happening at San Elijo and I told you that I would be bringing back the concept plans for the new facility.
  - ◆ We have held two public meetings so far and have had a little bit of involvement from the community.
  - ◆ Concept A is called "Promontory" with a large exhibit room on the first floor; a large assembly area outside: a classroom and observation deck on the second floor.
  - ◆ Concept B is called "Treehouse" with exhibit areas on the first and second floor; circular building with a central assembly area.
  - ◆ Concept C is called "Continental Divide" which has a large outdoor exhibit area; two exhibit areas on the first floor; a water feature area outside on the first floor; an additional exhibit area, classrooms, and observation deck on the second floor.
  - ◆ At the public meeting where these were presented, it was unanimously supported to move forward with Concept A "Promontory". There were some small suggestions to the concept plan and at this point it looks like we will be instructing our consultant to start moving forward with this.
    - Mike McCoy – Is there a concern about how this will stand out in the area and is this area going to be disturbed by this?
  - ◆ That was a concern for the community, but we are trying to find that delicate balance and include the green roof
    - Mike McCoy – I think that there should be something with the exhibits that really shows people how to rethink how we live and see that if we don't change the way that we are doing things that we are not going to have the resources in the future.
  - ◆ It is going to be the focus of these exhibits to teach and give people the chance to learn about things and it will not only focus on the lagoon, but all environmental aspects.

- Roger Utt – I would like to know the community comments about the two story building versus the one story? I think that you have to look at the area and make sure that you are not impeding on the community and the view of the area.
- ◆ We are limited by the Coastal Commission to 30 feet, which is why you will see that height on the plans. There is a bluff behind the facility, which our building will not exceed. The community that is above the area would just see the roof.
- Doug Goad – Some of the comments from the community were that you cannot see the facility from anywhere and they would actually like some more visibility and recognition for the facility. Of course not going into their views.
- Roger Utt – There was at one point an idea to put the building in the bluff and possibly have access from the road onto the roof of the building and have that be the observation deck/green roof/parking. This is a prime piece of real estate and I would really look at this to use that to your advantage and try to make the building more of a shelter than a big facility. Since this building is going to have the green roof you have to think about how to allow the natural lighting into the building.
- Barnett Ranch Update – Trish Boaz
  - ◆ The biological and cultural surveys have been completed for the area as well as the draft management plan.
  - ◆ We are finalizing the fire management plan and the trails design as part of the management plan.
  - ◆ We expect to have the internal review completed by Summer 2006, which we will then bring back to this group.
  - ◆ After this operations staff will begin preparing for the opening of the area in the Fall/Winter of 2006.
    - Doug Goad - Did you get a chance to talk to the Ramona Riders about this?
  - ◆ We have not talked with them yet, but will be contacting the stakeholders in the area after the draft plan is completed.
    - Mike McCoy – How sensitive is the habitat in the area?
  - ◆ It is a pretty sensitive area with coastal sage scrub, bald eagles, etc.
    - Marilyn Wilkinson – I know that the equestrians like to ride down close to the water and I worry about the disruption to the waterways.
  - ◆ This will be part of the MSCP, so we are required to protect the biological resources on the site, so all trail plans would conform to this.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am by Marilyn Wilkinson.

### ATTENDEES:

Mike McCoy – District 1  
 Marilyn Wilkinson, District 2  
 Doug Goad, District 3  
 Paul Davis, District 3  
 Roger Utt, District 4  
 Renée Bahl, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Jason Hemmens, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Charley Marchesano, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Eric Wong, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Trish Boaz, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation